



DANGER PATTERNS (DP): [dp.8](#) - surface hoar blanketed with snow; [dp.1](#) - deep persistent weak layer; [dp.3](#) - rain

Treacherous situation in southern East Tirol, less peril towards the north

AVALANCHE DANGER

In southern East Tirol a thoroughly precarious situation prevails for skiers and freeriders: avalanche danger was high (4) for a brief spell during the night, is now considerable (3) and could again climb to high during the day as a result of intensifying snowfall and rising temperatures. Particularly between 1800m and 2400m on west to north to east facing slopes more frequent naturally triggered avalanches can be expected. Cause: the surface hoar now blanketed by new fallen snow. At low and intermediate altitudes, in addition, increasingly frequent full depth snowslides threaten in all of East Tirol due to the thoroughly wet snow cover. In remaining East Tirol, where the blanketed surface hoar is also the major hazard, the danger level is predominantly considerable. Towards the north, the danger level recedes incrementally. Avalanche prone locations (from freshly drifted masses) are found in very steep, shady terrain; in transition areas from shallow to deep snow; and in ridgeline areas.

SNOW LAYERING

The anticipated snowfall arrived, heaviest in East Tirol (up to 40 cm in the furthest southern regions, 25 cm in East Tirol Tauern, in North Tirol a few centimeters at most). The fresh fallen snow is moist as far up as the treeline, wet at low altitudes. Currently, the major problem is extremely trigger-sensitive surface hoar on west to north to east facing slopes up to approximately 2500m which has been covered by the snowfall. Furthermore, the generally loosely packed snowbase, particularly on west-northwest to north to east-northeast facing slopes, also threatens: due to the increasingly wet and heavy snow, structural fractures can occur in southern regions. Freshly accumulated snowdrift at the borderline to the originally loose new fallen snow, especially above about 2000m in widespread areas of Tirol (excluding northern regions), is a danger.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Mountain weather today: snowfall and fog in the mountains, heaviest snowfall along the Main Alpine Ridge, Dolomites and Carnic Alps (maximum 10 cm by this evening; in the Northern Alps, between 5 and 10 cm). Temperatures receding at high altitude, winds slackening off. Temperature at 2000m: -5 degrees; at 3000m: -11 degrees. Strong southerly winds to begin with, later weakening and shifting to northwesterly.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

As temperatures rise, avalanche danger will recede.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe